

Acral melanoma of the extremities: a study of 33 cases Sarawakian patients.

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Source

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Abstract

BACKGROUND:

Acral melanoma involve the non-pigmented palmoplantar and subungual areas and are commonly seen among Asians. Patients commonly display advanced stage of disease at presentation. It may appear unnoticed and mimic benign lesions.

METHODS:

Data for this retrospective study was retrieved from Histopathology Unit, Sarawak General Hospital, Malaysia archive from 2003 to 2009.

RESULT:

62.3% cases of malignant melanoma were acral melanoma. The mean age of diagnosis was 64.3 +/- 12.1. The involved sites were the heel (39.4%), middle and frontal plantar area (24.2%), toe (24.2%) and web spaces (9.1%). The clinical presentations were; an enlarging mass (60.6%), non-healing ulcer (24.2%) and abnormal pigmented lesion (15.2%). Most cases exhibited Breslow thickness >4.00 mm (87.9%) and Clark's levels V (50%). The majority showed moderate (non brisk) tumour infiltrating lymphocytes (57.6%). Ulceration (84.8%) and lymphovascular involvement were seen (24.2%).

CONCLUSION:

Acral melanoma is the commonest malignant melanoma in this Sarawakian cohort. Most of the cases presented with advanced stage disease.

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